

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

July 11, 2013

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St. Louis

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Entire Edition

Showcase Participants Push Best Practices to an All-Time High

By Jim Dickson



If you haven't watched the video from this year's innovations showcase, click above. The video, located on showcase intranet site, highlights some of the innovations, like the Central District's ASC herbicide sprayer (link works for active employees only).

Thanks to a good showing by districts and divisions at the Innovations Showcase in April, MoDOT's Solutions at Work program has approved a record number of best practices. A total of 26 best practices have been added to the online database, which eclipses the previous high-water mark of 19 set in 2008. What's more, for second year in a row, every district and the Central Office had at least one best practice approved. The hotbed for innovation during the past year was the Central District, claiming a total of seven best practices.

Eight of the best practices were statewide winners from the Innovations Showcase. Another sixteen of the participants from the showcase have been evaluated and approved as best practices by teams of district and division experts over the past two months. Only one of this year's best practices went through the regular Solutions at Work submission and review process. Overall, the ProMo Challenge resulted in 11 best practices and the Tool and Equipment Challenge produced 14 best practices.

Here's a breakdown of all 26 best practices approved this year.

- ACS Herbicide Sprayer (Central)
- Arrow Board Tilt Mechanism (St. Louis)
- Bullet Nose (Central)
- Chloride Injection System (Southwest)
- Concrete Slab Puller (Central)
- Core Holder Vice (St. Louis)
- Edge Rut Box Roller (Northeast)
- Electronic Spec Book (Design)
- Guardrail Delineation Improvements (Northeast)
- Inspection and Responsibility Guide (Central)
- Limb Saw (Central)
- Non-Stick Spray Prep Cleaning Method (Northwest)
- Rebar Measuring Device (St. Louis)
- RED Signal Ahead Panel (Southwest)
- Shared 4-Lane, Highway 5, Camden County Project (Central)
- Sign Height Measuring Tool (Northwest)
- Sign Post Setter (Northwest)
- Signing Plans and Cross Section Revisions (Central)
- Swing Chute (Kansas City)
- Tab Buster (Southwest)
- Tab Remover (Kansas City)
- Tow Plow Calibration (Southeast)
- Tractor Adaptor (Kansas City)
- Truck Bed Wedge (St. Louis)
- Web-Based Microfilm (Northeast)
- Web-Based Ordering System(Southwest)

You can see photos and plans for all MoDOT best practices online at <http://wwwi/intranet/or/Solutions/solutionslist.htm>.

Plans for next year's challenges and showcase are underway. Early indications are the challenges will be expanding to involve more areas of the department and encouraging year-round submissions. If you've found a way to do your work better, faster or cheaper, take a minute to complete the SAW submission form at <http://wwwi/intranet/or/Solutions/Solutions.htm>.

Familiar Logo in New Places



To help keep safety in the forefront of everything we do, employees will begin seeing the familiar *Safety Begins With Me* logo in some new places.

Safety logo stickers are being distributed to all MoDOT buildings to place on external and internal doorways, and window clings will be placed on

MoDOT vehicles.

The idea for the stickers and window clings came from the comprehensive safety program team. The team is working to organize and update all safety related information and materials.

Seeing the logo as we enter our buildings and vehicles will help remind us to focus on safety throughout the day.



Director Dave Nichols places the first *Safety Begins With Me* sticker on the director's office door.

Team Talk

by Roberta Broeker

Hello Team MoDOT! What do you think about when the alarm goes off each morning? Most of us probably think about needing just a few more minutes of sleep. (In my case, make that another 30 minutes because I am NOT a morning person.) But fast forward to when you've had your first cup of coffee of whatever you do to start your morning. What do think about then? Is it how much you dread the work piled on your desk or waiting along the roadside? Or do you think about how much you can get done today, and what great and important things those are?

It's the old the glass is "half empty" or "half full" situation. You can either come to work with a negative attitude or a positive one. It's your choice, but I'm hoping I can convince you that the best choice is a positive attitude.

Here are some things I found to be true about having a positive attitude at work:

- **You'll get more done.** A positive attitude gets you ready to take advantage of opportunities that come your way. How many major league ball players go up to the plate thinking they'll probably strike out? I'm going to say not many. That kind of attitude will send you back to the minors or back home. A negative attitude prepares you to fail.
- **You'll reduce your stress.** Feeling good about what lies ahead, and believing that whatever it is, you'll figure it out, can help reduce your stress at work. Medical studies show being positive can improve your overall well-being, reduce your blood pressure and stuff like that. No doctor recommends that a patient needs to be pessimistic to get better.
- **You'll be a happier person.** Having a positive attitude at work will spill over into other areas of your life. If you approach each work day with a positive attitude, you're more likely to have a better day at work, which usually means a better evening with friends and family.
- **You'll likely make more friends.** Negative people drain the energy from everyone around them. We've all seen it happen. That's why most of us gravitate toward positive people and away from the voices of doom and gloom. Have you ever almost run into someone in the store and ducked down another aisle because you knew all they were going to do is complain? Don't be the person everyone else is hoping to avoid. Be the person with the upbeat attitude that everyone wants to get to know better.



I really like a quote from Judith Knowlton, a psychologist and author. She wrote, "I discovered I always have choices and sometimes it's only a choice of attitude." How true. Even if we don't get to decide, we can still choose how we're going to play the hand we're dealt. Looking at the situation from the positive side doesn't cost extra. We can complain the task is too hard or rejoice because we're about to accomplish something great.

Think POSITIVE Team MoDOT! There is nothing we can't do.

PS – If you want to know more about being positive at work, MoDOT offers an online course, *Developing a Positive Attitude*. You can get more information about the course from your local Human Resources staff or visit the [Learning Management System](#) website.

Fast Facts - Bridges

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

Missouri's bridge count is updated each spring. MoDOT is now officially caretaker of 10,364 bridges. Just about two percent, or 211



In 2007, Senator Bond dedicated the The Christopher Bond Bridge in Herman.

are categorized as major bridges.

Examples include the Christopher Bond Bridges in Kansas City and Hermann and the Emerson Bridge in Cape Girardeau.

State Transportation Program Approved by Commission

Focus Remains on Maintaining Missouri's Existing Transportation System

By Holly Dentner

Every year, MoDOT releases its Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, which lists all transportation projects planned by state, metropolitan and regional planning agencies for a five-year period.



This year, the 2014-2018 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, also known as the “STIP,” was approved by the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission on July 9, 2013.

“With help from our planning partners, we have determined what projects are priorities over the next five years,” said MoDOT Director Dave Nichols.

“Projects listed in the STIP represent our commitments to the state of Missouri, and the STIP puts them on a schedule for completion.”

Several years ago, the STIP contained over a billion dollars’ worth of new road and bridge construction projects each year, generating jobs, boosting the economy and expanding the safe and efficient movement of people and goods across the state and the country.

A dramatic reduction in transportation funding, however, makes today’s STIP look very different.

“Roadway resurfacing, preventative maintenance, and rehabilitation projects make up the majority of the \$700 million program,” said Nichols. “This is the kind of work that will maintain the existing transportation system for a while, but it won’t last forever.”

While \$700 million may sound like a lot of money, it is barely enough to take care of Missouri’s roads and bridges.

“We are committed to taking care of our system for as long as we can with the resources we have,” said Nichols. “But we face big challenges because we are dependent on fuel taxes as a revenue source, and that resource is dwindling as cars get more fuel efficient and people drive less as a result of high gas prices.”

The 2014-2018 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program lists transportation projects planned by state, metropolitan and regional planning agencies for fiscal years 2014 through 2018 (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2018). The program is available on MoDOT’s web site, www.modot.org, and at MoDOT district and regional offices around the state.

MoDOT is also engaged in a long-term planning effort called “On the Move.” The department is working through the summer to gather direction and insight from Missourians on major transportation issues and priorities. Where the STIP represents specific obligations for transportation over a five-year period, On the Move will focus on Missouri’s transportation direction and priorities for the next 20 years. Learn more about On the Move at www.missourionthemove.org.

Missouri Gets a 'Spring Cleaning' During No MORE Trash! Bash

by Holly Dentner

Missourians from every corner of the state worked together in April to collect almost 130,000 bags of litter during the 2013 No MORE

Trash! Bash.

The Bash is an annual event where volunteers and others clean up litter all across state – from roadsides and parks to rivers and streams. With the final reporting now complete, the Missouri departments of Conservation and Transportation report 129,255 bags collected in April during the Bash.

“On behalf of our state’s forests, fish and wildlife, and the millions of Missourians who enjoy them, we offer a great big ‘Thank You!’ to the almost 1,000 groups and more than 16,000 volunteers who bashed trash by picking up litter and educating others about the dangers of littering,” said Conservation Department No MOre Trash! Coordinator Joe Jerek. “Animals get tangled in litter, such as plastic six-pack holders and discarded fishing line, and it hurts and kills them.”

Litter poisons fish, birds and other wildlife, along with their habitats, such as rivers, fields and forests. Trash Bash volunteer efforts are essential to prevent that from happening.

“The No MOre Trash! Bash is a success because everyone involved pitches in,” said Stacy Armstrong, MoDOT roadside management specialist. “Conservation groups, Adopt-A-Highway members, Stream Teams, inmates, MoDOT employees and many other volunteers all work together to pick up litter and give Missouri a spring cleaning.”

Hundreds of educational efforts were also held in schools, at rest areas, community events, during Earth Day celebrations, and more. While it’s great to see the impact these efforts have, it’s important to remember why they take place.

“Litter is a big problem because it’s unattractive, costly, and harmful to the environment,” said Armstrong. “If more people would keep their trash and properly dispose of it, or, better yet, recycle it, we would reduce the amount of litter we need to pick up in the first place.”



For MoDOT, litter clean-up is a year-round job, costing the state over \$5 million every year. Programs like the Trash Bash and the Adopt-A-Highway program help offset those costs and allow the department to devote resources to other much needed tasks.

The No MOre Trash! Bash is sponsored by the Missouri departments of Conservation and Transportation. For more information about the Bash and other litter prevention activities, visit www.nomoretrash.org or call 888-ASK-MoDOT (888-275-6636).

MPERS Welcomes New Board Member from Southwest District

by Robert Edwards

The Southwest District’s Todd Tyler, newest trustee of the MoDOT and Patrol Employees’ Retirement System, understands the seriousness of the job he was elected to in early June – and the main challenge.

It’s money. Money enough to keep the system sound and strong into the future.



New MPERS Board Member Todd Tyler is looking forward to working with other board members to keep our retirement system strong.

“I want to make sure that we’re better funded,” Tyler said. He hopes the MPERS board can work over the next few years toward increasing the plan’s funded status to the 60-percent level, up from the current 46 percent.

“The goal is to assure current and future retirees that the plan will be healthy and in place for them,” he said.

Tyler is a Southwest District senior financial services specialist and once was credit union manager in Joplin. He has helped employees with retirement and medical insurance issues. He has been with MoDOT since 1996. He was chosen in early June as a MoDOT employee representative on the MPERS board to finish the term vacated by Sue Feltrop who retired in April. The term ends in June 2014.

Tyler said he looks forward to working with the other 10 trustees overseeing the retirement system, which has a net asset value of \$1.5 billion. He is striving to get up to speed quickly to do his part.

The 11-member MPERS board is made up of three members of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, MoDOT’s

director, the Highway Patrol superintendent, a state representative, a state senator, an active MoDOT employee, an active Patrol employee, a retired MoDOT employee and a retired Patrol employee.

Longtime co-worker Paul Todey, a senior audits and investigations investigator and a former Joplin credit union board member, said Tyler sought the trustee position “out of a genuine concern” for employees and retirees.

“He’ll be involved. He’ll know what’s going on. He’ll follow through. I think he’ll be a good advocate for employees,” Todey said. “He has a good knowledge of the retirement plan. He has a good knowledge of where the plan is and where it probably needs to go.”

Maintenance Superintendent Travis Jones based in Nevada said Tyler is “good as gold” on benefits and other employee-related issues.

“He’ll be an advocate for the employees,” Jones said.

“He’s not afraid to speak up, but he is a team player,” Jones said. “I think he’ll be open-minded and listen to everybody’s opinion.”



What's Happening



Chat With the Chief

Don't forget to check out Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger's blog post - [Chat with the Chief](#) ([link works for active employees only](#)).

Connections Now Easier to Read

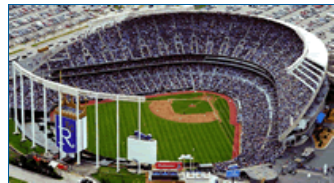
Connections readers who use the pdf version to get their MoDOT news will be happy to see that the type size is now larger and easier to read online. The larger type size will also be helpful for employees in field buildings who read Connections from the printed pdf version. Below is a snippet showing the online pdf size. We're continuing to improve the pdf version and plan to have more improvements in the near future.

Keeping Our Customers Safe

by Dave Nichols

We’ve all experienced driving down the highway to a meeting or the job site, and as we drive by we wonder -- Is their vehicle broken down? Are they sick? Do they may wonder what’s going on, most of the time we probably just drive by because

As employees of MoDOT, we are public servants and stewards of our transportation. What we should do in this scenario is ask ourselves, “What can I do to help?” In the situation, there is probably something you can do to be a good Samaritan. Keeping customers safe is part of our safety commitment, and everyone’s responsibility.



Batter Up!

Missouri State Employee Night at the K! Saturday, Sept. 7 Kansas City Royals vs. Detroit Tigers
Find special pricing on the website - [Royals](#)

Win a MoDOT Centennial T-shirt!

Congratulations to Kendra McLelland in Central Office Transportation Planning and Jeffrey Pycke in Kansas City District’s Fleet Support for earning MoDOT Centennial T-shirts by knowing The King’s Highway was the first officially-designated road in Missouri.



Enter online here: [Quiz](#) or fax your answer, name and phone number to (573) 526-4859 by Friday, July 19 for a shot at the next t-shirt give away (*link works for active employees only*).

In _____, the Missouri Legislature made it unlawful to drive any motor vehicle on any highway of the state without either an operator’s or chauffeur’s license.

- 1899
- 1924
- 1937
- 1969

More June Service Anniversaries

5 Years

William Leonard Scott - SW
Michael F. Miller - SW
Arthur D. Stewart - SW

Amy M. Bryant - SE
Barbara J. Conner - SE
Caleb Dwain Bradshaw - SE

Shaun A. Smith - SE
Adam S. Brown - CO
Michelle R. Schlup - CO

July Service Anniversaries

40 Years

Lambert F. Gruenloh - NE
Marjorie A. Frank - CO

35 Years

Joseph K. Long - NE
Wendell Lockridge - SE
Curtis W. Stegeman - CO

30 Years

Rowland Keith Harmon - SW

25 Years

Gary L. Branson - SL
Gary R. Tangen - SE
Freddie L. Taylor - SE
Jill Abernathy Feters - SE

20 Years

Thomas M. Colatrella - NW
Tanya R. Dauma - NE
Jennifer Ann Butner - NE
Randy W. Jones - KC
Erma Jane Dunkeson - KC
Trent A. Brooks - CD
David M. Cissell - SW
Charles Ernest Sharp - SW
Gregory Edward Sanders - CO
Kevin J. Vollet - CO
Michaelene Ann Knudsen - CO
Janet M. Ruth - CO

15 Years

Craig Preston Curnutt - NW
Heath Eugene Hartman - NW
Sammy Lew Hartung - NE
Bryan N. Moots - NE
Sean Edward Unglesbee - NE
Kent D. Worthington - NE
Christopher S. Spears - KC
Rocky Joe Johnson - KC
Clarence L. Ray - CD
Robert P. Deardeuff - CD
Denise M. Thompson - SL
Mark E. Truskoski - SL
Tina Kay Schmitz - SL
Chunlei Wang - SL
Mark A. Adams - SW
Kristina Lynn White - SW
Stephen E. McClellan - SW
Raymond Carl Johnson - SW
Kevin L. McGlothlin - SW
Gary E. Sanders - SW
David L. Wyman - SE
Kenneth L. Mathews - CO
Mary Beth Anthony - CO

10 Years

Homer W. Rainey - NW
David R. Tombleson - NW
Rob A. Frese - NE
Rodney James Davis - SL
Alexis Mays - SL
Scott W. Hill - SW
Lyndell Lane Greer - SW
Ron A. Rehkop - SE
Kevin L. Lemons - SE
Narvel D. Bostic - SE
Ronald Lloyd Jones - SE
Kelly S. Wilson - CO
Elizabeth S. Duvall - CO

5 Years

Virgena Anne Fuqua - NW
Ryan J. Martens - KC
Lisa Marie Craig - KC
Brian Wayne Henson - CD
Anthony D. Shiflett - CD
Karin Ann Gough - SL
Shonta Moore - SL
Kevin Michael Mulligan - SL
David L. Patrick - SE
Houston H. Schooler - CO
David Polston - CO

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Customer Relations - MoDOT
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Editor: Tammy Wallace

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Central
Office

Meet Kristen Bagwill, MoDOT's New Employee Development Specialist

by Holly Dentner

Kristen Bagwill joined the MoDOT team in May, and serves as the Human Resources Employee Development contact for Central Office employees. She's here to help us enjoy our work and home lives by sharing training, tips, tricks, and other ideas through the Work Life Program and the MoDOT Employee Enrichment (MEE) Zone. Kristen took some time this week to answer a few questions about her role at MoDOT.



Kristen Bagwill, employee development contact for Central Office, is eager to help employees and is seeking input on new ideas for the MEE Zone.

Q. Tell us a little about yourself and your work at MoDOT. What is your focus within the employee development division?

Bagwill: I am responsible for HR SharePoint administration, contract administration and assisting with training, including MoDOT's Learning Management System, which you know as the LMS Student Center. LMS is my baby! I'm also developing the MEE Zone and Work Life Center to make them more useful and valuable to employees. All that being said, providing excellent customer service is my ultimate goal!

Q. What big projects are you working on?

Bagwill: Currently I am working on revamping our Central Office new hire process – collecting feedback from recent new hires, putting the finishing touches on a website to bridge the gap between when we hire a new employees and their actual start dates, and reworking new employee orientation.

Q. What is the Work Life Program and the MEE Zone, and why are they important for MoDOT?

Bagwill: It's a proven fact that folks are more satisfied and productive when they feel like they have a good balance between work and the rest of their life. We're all very busy, and this balance is hard to achieve. To help their employees with this, MoDOT has the MEE Zone. The MEE Zone provides our employees with information on discounts, training, upcoming wellness events, information on managing stress, legal and financial resources, personal and professional development opportunities, and information on a variety of topics that affect employees' lives. The [MEE Zone Blog](#) is where you can keep up with me; I'm always posting new information, articles, websites, events, etc. that I find interesting and that I think might interest others as well.

In the past, the MEE Zone has offered discounts for everything from amusement park tickets to cell phone service. We've also coordinated Weight Watchers classes, spinal screenings, the Biggest Loser competitions, and the Ride for Remembrance. I plan to continue doing things like this, but I'm always open to new ideas. Please share yours with me!

Q. How can employees improve their work life balance? What do you do personally to find that balance?

Bagwill: Life is so much more enjoyable when you're in balance. It's so important to have down time away from work to focus on yourself and those you love. This will give you more energy and help you to give your best at work as well!

When I'm at work, I'm fully at work. When I leave, I leave work behind and rest, relax, spend time with my loved ones, travel and do the things I enjoy. I also try very hard to eat lots of fruits and veggies, eat my French fries and cake in moderation, and run or bike regularly. My best advice, though, is to always be learning. That's something you can always do (no fitness test required!), and it's the only way to grow personally and professionally. I'm always reading and learning about new things and ways I can better myself.

Q. How can employees learn more about Work Life and Mee Zone?

Bagwill: Call or email me! Or check out the [website](#).

Q. Anything else you want to share with your coworkers?

Bagwill: The LMS Student Center, if you haven't used it, is a FANTASTIC resource for MoDOT training, both online and instructor-led. We also have access to other online training courses from external vendors--everything from Microsoft Excel 2010 training to diversity, leadership, conflict management, and budgeting. If you're interested in additional training, let me know, and I can give you the access you need and help you find applicable classes. I'm here to help you!

Learning From Each Other



The spotlight on MoDOT's mentoring program continues with the latest edition of the mentoring newsletter. The newsletter highlights a mentor and mentee sharing their experiences with the program.

Read the latest edition and see what Motor Carrier Services Director Jan Skouby and Information Systems Technologist Janemargaret Akwaowo say about the program. [Newsletter](#)

What's Happening at Central Office



CPR Training

More CPR training is being offered.

Location: HRED Training Room B, 601 W. Main, Jefferson City

Tuesday, Aug. 6	8 a.m. - 12 p.m.	12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 7		12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 8	8 a.m. - 12 p.m.	
Tuesday, Aug. 13		12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday., Aug. 15		12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 20		12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 10	8 a.m. - 12 p.m.	12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 19		12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 24	8 a.m. - 12 p.m.	12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

To enroll contact Danielle.Thomas@modot.mo.gov.

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Northeast District

OTM Hits Home Run with Crowd

Since the NE Coalition for Roadway Safety sponsors the local collegiate baseball team, the Hannibal Cavemen, a special night is designated to share the "Arrive Alive" message. "Anticipating a crowd of around 300, we felt this was a good opportunity to set up our On The Move display to gather more surveys," said Marisa Ellison, customer relations manager.

In addition to having a major presence at the game, highway designer Joe McNeill's son, Brady, threw out the first pitch. And it was a humdinger! "That kid can throw!" people exclaimed as the four-year old zinged it across home plate.

As OTM wraps up, the NE District took its van to 56 events and shared the OTM presentation in about 70 other formal settings.

"The ambassadors did a great job covering our counties, and we really appreciated the help of other districts and central office to cover some of the events," said NE District Engineer Paula Gough. Two weeks ago, central office staff Lisa Lemaster, Chuck Goehring and Debbie Rickard surveyed a large audience during the fly in at the Mexico Airport. Earlier, Beth Wright and Tammy Wallace covered an event in Moberly. "This was a great team effort," Paula added.



Shoeless Joe even took the survey! Tom Batenhorst is pictured with Joe and another Missouri resident as he encouraged OTM surveys during "Arrive Alive" night at the Hannibal Cavemen game.

Around the District...



The teeter totter of flooding...U.S. 61 at Alexandria has been the "trouble" spot during Mississippi River flooding over the last few months. Fortunately, MoDOT was able to keep the road open over the holiday, making many people, especially fireworks stands in Missouri, happy! Crews are pictured here working on clean up after the water had mostly receded from the road.



More than 30 kids visited MoDOT's Northeast District on June 27 in recognition of Bring Your Child to Work Day. Barrel Bob greeted those who came to the district office in Hannibal, and he even let the kids get pictures with him! Mike Flake, maintenance crew leader at Warrenton, is pictured with his daughter, Olivia, who apparently tried and nearly succeeded in "showing up" her dad's skills that day. Pictures of all the kids who visited are on the NE District home Intranet page.



Amy Crawford, north area engineer (pictured), and Paula Gough, district engineer, took advantage of the 4th of July celebration in Shelbyville to capture more surveys for the On The Move Initiative.

For more info

Marisa Brown-Ellison
Customer Relations Manager
Northeast District
573.248.2502
Marisa.Ellison@modot.mo.gov

1711 S. Highway 61
Hannibal, MO 63401

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Northwest District

Partnering Today For A More Beautiful Tomorrow Along U.S. Hwy 36

U.S. Highway 36 is already known as the Way of American Genius due to its famous historical association with names like Walt Disney and Mark Twain. Soon travelers along this route in north Missouri may have another reason to appreciate the drive – the beautiful addition of 800 native Missouri tree seedlings along the 192 miles from St. Joseph to Hannibal, as a cooperative project between the Missouri departments of Conservation and Transportation.

Beginning this fall, members of the Missouri Master Naturalist program composed of highly trained Conservation volunteers from the Loess Hills chapter, will begin planting phase one of three phases by planting groups of 20 seedlings every five miles or so, beginning in St. Joseph and ending at Cameron. Coordinated by MDC, each site (where possible) will alternate from north to south highway locations and feature a single native species selected based on site habitat and conditions.



Agents from the Missouri Department of Conservation recently scouted several sites between St. Joseph and Cameron for phase one of the tree planting program, including this site near the Route AC intersection in St. Joseph.

“This project is a great way to reintroduce native trees to a new generation of travelers along U.S. Hwy 36,” said TJ Peacher, outreach coordinator for MDC. “It’s not only a great way to help people appreciate the drive along this route, but to recognize the amazing work the volunteers in the Missouri Master Naturalist program perform.”

Phase two will take place in 2014 and will extend from Cameron to Brookfield and phase three will continue from Brookfield to Hannibal in 2015. After all three phases are complete there will be approximately 40 tree groupings. Each grouping of 20 trees will feature a different species.

After the final phase, MoDOT will begin installing signs from St. Joseph east along the route to signify the different planting locations and species designations. This will give the tiny trees time to grow enough to actually be seen from the road since most of them will be approximately 30 feet or more from the highway. Additional partners like adjacent land owners, local volunteer fire departments and others will help keep the trees alive by watering them as needed.

“While our focus is always on improving the safety of the roads in our state transportation system, when we get an opportunity like this to partner and enhance a major thoroughfare in our part of the state we know it’s a win-win for everyone involved,” said Don Wichern, MoDOT Northwest District engineer.

For more information on the Missouri Naturalist Program, visit <http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/>.

Around the District



Missouri State Highway Patrolmen from Troop H blocked traffic on U.S. Hwy 169 in Andrew County when a very large blow up buckled the pavement just as commuters were headed home on June 26. Local maintenance crews were called and the road was reopened that evening.



Facility Operations Supervisor Matt Sonner, District Engineer Don Wichern, Assistant District Engineer Tony McGaughy (not pictured), District Design Engineer Troy Slagle and three of Troy's children, participated in the Andrew County Fair and Parade representing the Northwest District's On The Move outreach. The group gathered more than 60 surveys from parade and fairgoers. The On The Move mobile tour has wrapped up, but other On The Move efforts will continue, including meeting with our regional planning partners to discuss the survey results and comments collected during the mobile tour.

Employees Appreciated With Chris Cakes

The first of three employee appreciation brunches were held at the Chillicothe maintenance facility on July 2, 2013. Employees from across the eastern side of the Northwest District were treated to pancakes and sausage from Chris Cakes, a company that began in Iowa, but now serves groups throughout the Midwest and across the country. Chris Cakes crew entertained while flipping flapjacks onto plates, as seen in the photos below. The district management team helped serve sausages and drinks, leaving the flippers to do what they do best. A brunch was also held in Maryville on July 10 and one more is planned in St. Joseph on July 18.



Senior Maintenance Worker Jim Blanchard from Unionville Maintenance attempts to catch one of the pancakes tossed by the Chris Cakes crew.



Though there were valiant efforts to catch them all, not all of the pancakes made it onto plates.



District staff also helped serve at the pancake brunch.



Crews from all over the eastern side of the district gathered in Chillicothe for the pancake brunch.

For more info

Melissa Black

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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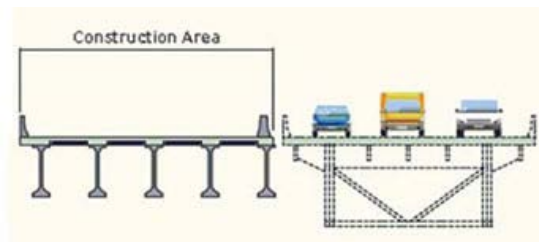
Kansas City District

Design-Build For I-70 Manchester Bridge to Deliver More for Travelers

by Steve Porter



Clarkson/HNTB, will keep all mainline lanes of I-70 open during peak weekday periods to minimize any construction-related congestion during the two-year bridge replacement project.



To minimize traffic disruption, Clarkson/HNTB team will build completely new bridge lanes alongside the existing bridge. Once complete, traffic will switch to new construction and the contractor will remove the old bridges.



In addition to two new, wider bridges on I-70, the project also will replace the historic old Route 40 Bridge over the Blue River with a new, unrestricted bridge.

I-70 travelers will be treated to a smooth journey both during and after construction to replace the Manchester Bridge, thanks to the **innovative proposal MoDOT has selected for the design-build project.**

The successful team, Clarkson/HNTB, will keep all mainline lanes of **I-70 open during peak weekday periods** to minimize any construction-related congestion during the two-year bridge replacement project.

Once the \$63,757,689 project is finished, two completely new I-70 bridges will span Manchester Trafficway, the Blue River and several railroad tracks with four lanes in both directions and retain full access between I-70 and Manchester.

"By using the design-build process, MoDOT is putting the public first to get the best value for each dollar spent," said Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission Chairman Joe Carmichael. "Not only will the structure deliver great value for taxpayer investment, Clarkson/HNTB will meet MoDOT's challenge to do this work with the least possible inconvenience to motorists."

In addition to two new, wider bridges on I-70, the project also will **replace the historic old Route 40 Bridge** over the Blue River with a new, unrestricted bridge that will provide improved access for all trucks into and out of the Blue Valley Industrial District.

The new Route 40 bridge design also includes a shoulder and bike path for safe bicycle and pedestrian travel.

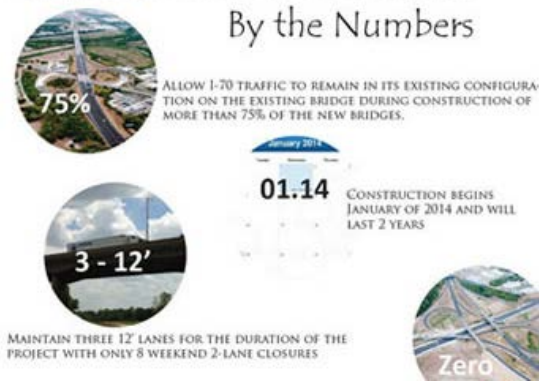
Work on the mainline I-70 bridges begins in 2014, with anticipated completion by the end of 2015.

MoDOT will again employ its highly successful design-build process, which delivered the **Christopher S. Bond Bridge** and 554 of the 800 new or rehabilitated bridges in the **Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program** on mostly rural Missouri highways.

"Each of the four design-build teams that sought this project were highly competitive, every one offering innovative, cost-effective designs that meet MoDOT's demand to keep I-70 traffic flowing smoothly during peak periods," said MoDOT Transportation Project

MANCHESTER BRIDGE PROJECT

By the Numbers



To help customers understand the many aspects of this project, the communications team created several easy-to-use tools including a project infographic. Click the image to review.

For more information on this project, [review the project web page here](#).

Director Susan Barry. "We are pleased to select Clarkson/HNTB."

HNTB developed the construction and traffic sequencing and performed most of the design to "Untangle the Triangle," MoDOT's award-winning 3-Trails Crossing Memorial Highway interchange, while Clarkson completed the majority of the construction. Many of the same challenges faced on 3-Trails Crossing will be encountered on the I-70 Manchester Bridge Project.

HNTB and Clarkson also worked with MoDOT on the Bruce R. Watkins Drive project under similar traffic conditions, including the tie-in to I-70, and the I-70/I-670 downtown loop.

The design-build contract includes **disadvantaged business enterprise** participation of 12 percent in construction and 18 percent in design and meet federal workforce guidelines with 6.9 percent female participation and 12.7 percent minority participation.

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Central District Hosts Third Commission Meeting

The Central District was proud to play host to the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission for the third time this year when the commission met in Rolla on Tuesday. The district hosted two previous commission meetings in Columbia and Jefferson City.

Commission Chairman Joe Carmichael opened the meeting by noting it had been four years since the commission had met in Rolla, and he told meeting attendees it was great to be back.

One of the new commission members, Kelley Martin, noted he had close ties to Rolla, having received two degrees from the Missouri University of Science and Technology. He also met his wife in Rolla and their two oldest children were born at Rolla Regional Hospital.

Rolla Mayor William Jenks III welcomed the commission and expressed appreciation to the commission and to MoDOT for their support of area transportation projects. He said he was pleased with the "horse swapping" that goes on between the city and MoDOT to make highway improvements, such as when MoDOT installed several roundabouts near I-44 in return for the city taking over the maintenance of Kingshighway.



Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Kenneth Suelthaus visits with Rolla City Administrator John Butz and Phelps County Presiding Commissioner Randy Verkamp following the July 9 commission meeting in Rolla.



Tom Brown, executive director of corporate systems with Brewer Science of Rolla, explains his company's decision to expand its operations on land near the Rolla National Airport. Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioners, MoDOT staff and city and county officials were on hand for the presentation as part of the commission's

Randy Verkamp, Phelps County presiding commissioner, said he was most proud of the department's work to reduce highway fatalities. "The grief you spare us collectively as an agency is staggering," he said. He noted MoDOT had gained the confidence and trust of the public and thanked the commission and MoDOT "for making us proud to be Missourians."

Meramec Regional Planning Commission Executive Director Bonnie Prigge noted the region's partnership with MoDOT had resulted in the recent approval of four cost-share projects. "We appreciate that MoDOT listens," Prigge said.

Commissioner Carmichael closed the meeting by saying, "It's a great feeling to be in Rolla, and we appreciate the hospitality."

visit to Rolla for its July meeting.

Driving the New DDI - Virtually!

It won't be too long before the diverging diamond interchange at Route 740 (Stadium Boulevard) and Interstate 70 in Columbia is open to traffic. To help motorists better understand how the new interchange will work, the City of Columbia worked with Central District staff to create a video that takes travelers on a virtual driving tour of the interchange. Click on the video to learn more!



District Happenings



Senior Design Technician Cindy Kremer and two young helpers work to figure out the sturdiest, yet most cost-effective, way to wrap an egg so that it won't break when being tossed off the Central District office building. Looking on is CO Field Materials Engineer Lori Greer. The activity was just one of many educational and entertaining activities Central District and Central Office children could participate in at Take Your Child to Work Day held June 27.



Support Services Manager Jerry Kliethermes and General Services Manager Coleen Welter prepare to toss one of the egg-drop projects off of the building. The two braved the heights to help out with Take Your Child to Work Day, a joint effort of the district and Central Office. More than 90 children took part in the June 27 event.

The district's Maintenance Leadership Group recently visited the Mississippi River Bridge



project site and Gateway Guide in St. Louis as part of their learning experience. The new bridge construction can be seen in the background.

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Voice of St. Louis Group Gives Back to Community With Huge Food Drive

by Marie Elliott
Photos by Jack Wang

A ton of food donated to area food pantries this week will likely make life a little easier for some St. Louis area families. During June, the Voice of St. Louis group sponsored a food drive that generated about 2,000 pounds of canned and non-perishable food items. Its members met this past week and distributed to the food pantries in Franklin, St. Charles, St. Louis and Jefferson counties and the City of St. Louis.

One in eight people in the St. Louis metropolitan region are in need of food assistance and that need increases during the summer. The Voice of St. Louis, the district's employee advocacy extension group, chose the food drive as a way to have an impact on the community.

"We wanted to reach out to the communities in which we live and work and demonstrate MoDOT's concern for the families in them," said Mitch Huskey, a Voice of St. Louis member.

Food donations were made to:

- Feed My People pantries, City of St. Louis and St. Louis County
- Loving Hearts Pantry, Franklin County
- Oasis Food Pantry, St. Charles
- Peace Pantry, Jefferson County

A big thank you goes out to all St. Louis district employees who contributed food items to the drive and the Voice of St. Louis team for coordinating this event.



Voice of St. Louis members collected over 2000 pounds of food to donate to area food pantries. Items donated include cereal, canned goods and even toiletries.



Some of the items on display that were contributed by St. Louis MoDOT District employees for the food drive.

St. Louis Business Partners Help MoDOT Beautify I-64 Landscape

by Jack Wang and Kara Price

MoDOT St. Louis' I-64 Landscape program offers Missourians a way to maintain the landscape and beauty of the new I-64. Businesses like Outdoor Solutions, Natural One and Mixed Chicks have joined this effort by sponsoring multiple sections of Interstate 64 from Spoele and Big Bend to keep this area of West St. Louis County clean.



The I-64 Landscape sponsor signs feature the names of the business, such as Outdoor Solutions at I-64 and Brentwood Blvd., to indicate where each one helps keep the roadside landscaped through its sponsorship.

"Outdoor Solutions and Natural One are excited to sponsor this portion of Interstate 64," said Patrick O'Neal, President of both Outdoor Solutions and Natural One companies. "Our companies have a long history of investing in the community and protecting the environment, and we are proud to support organizations, like the I-64 Landscape Program, to maintain the beauty of the new I-64."

MoDOT offers an environmentally friendly program to help maintain a clean community within the St. Louis metropolitan area. Sponsors can choose to sign an agreement with the department to maintain the landscape on an available location themselves, or pay a maintenance fee to maintain that location. MoDOT works with an administering company, Adopt-A-Highway Litter Removal Service of America, Inc., who uses that maintenance fee to remove litter monthly and to contract local landscapers to mow and take care of plants.

Leaders from MoDOT, Outdoor Solutions and Natural One discussed the significance of the I-64 Landscape program at a news conference held in late June. They also unveiled the new I-64 Landscape signs, located on both directions of I-64 near Brentwood. The signs feature the names of Outdoor Solutions, Natural One and Mixed Chicks to indicate where each one helps keep the roadside landscaped.

"MoDOT appreciates companies that take the initiative to sponsor a portion of the I-64 landscape," Michelle Voegelé, MoDOT St. Louis Southwest Area Engineer, said. "The I-64 Landscape program means a more beautiful roadside for us all. If sponsorships are successful along the new lanes of I-64, the department intends to expand the program to other interstates."

The I-64 Landscape Sponsorship helps businesses invest in the area and help provide a welcoming front door to many of the communities in St. Louis. Businesses that sponsor a portion of landscape are also recognized on a sign at the sponsored location.

MoDOT has several locations along the I-64 corridor between Kingshighway and Spoede available for sponsorship. The available locations have a landscape sponsor sign, and a note to call MoDOT at 1-888-ASK-MoDOT to sponsor the area.



Michelle Voegele, MoDOT area engineer (center), discusses the significance of St. Louis' I-64 Landscape program with the local media at a news conference held at I-64 and Brentwood Blvd., one of the newly sponsored areas. Greg Horn, MoDOT interim district engineer (left), and Patrick O'Neal, president of both Outdoor Solutions and Natural One companies (right), discussed how the sponsorships will invest in the community and protect the environment while saving MoDOT time and resources.

On The Move Mobile Tours End with Success

photos by Kara Price



Steve Shelton, motorist assist operator (left), and Becky Allmeroth, district maintenance engineer (right), show their MoDOT On The Move spirit June 29 at the annual Pacific Car Cruise in Franklin County. Approximately 60 surveys were completed at this community event through the mobile tour.



Jack Wang, MoDOT community relations specialist (right), discusses Missouri's future transportation needs with an Amtrak traveler (left) at the Kirkwood train station. The St. Louis district received about 40 surveys during a few mobile tours at this station in late June.

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Comments & Suggestions

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SW District at Work



INSPECTING THE TMC BIG SCREENS: U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, left, gets a tour of the Transportation Management Center of the Ozarks in Springfield. Showing how the center works are, from left, City of Springfield Traffic Engineer Jason Haynes, Assistant District Engineer Andy Mueller and Senior Traffic Systems Operator Carrie Fodge (at the console). McCaskill spoke to reporters afterwards, voicing her support for increased investment in transportation infrastructure. (Photo by Bob Edwards)



CHECKING NEW ASPHALT: Springfield Senior Construction Inspector Chris Mills aims an infrared gun to make sure asphalt being laid along Route 14/Business 65 in Ozark is at the correct temperature. This is part of a project to add lanes and a traffic signal in a busy area near downtown. (Photo by Bob Edwards)

Conversion to 'Diverging Diamond Interchange' Under Way at I-44/Range Line Road in Joplin

by Bob Edwards

Joplin drivers will begin using the city's first diverging diamond interchange in about 10 days on Range Line Road at Interstate 44.

Work leading up to the switchover to the DDI design began this week and will continue through Saturday-Sunday, July 20-21. Ramps will be paved, concrete islands built, traffic signals positioned, signs installed and pavement markings applied.

To complete the transformation, Range Line Road is scheduled to be closed at I-44 starting Saturday morning, July 20. The road will be reopened to traffic in the DDI configuration late Sunday, July 21, or early Monday, July 22.



Computer Animation

The interchange, a key gateway to Joplin, is being rebuilt in this way:

- The two 1960s-era I-44 bridges over Range Line Road are being replaced with three, linked-together bridges.
- Cloverleaf ramps are eliminated in favor of straight, directional ramps. The two I-44 on-ramps are lengthened allowing traffic more merging distance. The two I-44 off-ramps are widened at the bottom to provide two lanes for traffic turning north on Range Line Road.

Range Line Road underneath I-44 will be converted to a DDI, with traffic shifted to the left-hand side of the road at the

traffic signals on either side of I-44.

The new directional ramps are designed to improve safety on I-44. This is accomplished by eliminating the cloverleaf conflict points for traffic speeding up to enter I-44 and slowing down to exit I-44 at the same location.

Traffic flow and safety on Range Line Road will be enhanced by the DDI. It will provide a "free left" turn for traffic turning onto I-44 and will keep through-traffic on Range Line Road moving steadily without having to stop for backed-up left-turning vehicles.

This will be the Southwest District's fifth Diverging Diamond Interchange, with three built in Springfield and one in Branson. Another DDI is under construction at Kansas Expressway (Route 13) and James River Freeway (Route 60) in Springfield.

The I-44/Range Line Road construction project began in August 2012. Emery Sapp and Sons is the prime contractor. Completion is scheduled in December.

U.S. 60 /Kodiak Road in Neosho: New Signal and Left-Turn Lanes

by Angela Eden

A project that makes for a safer drive along U.S. 60 on Neosho's west side was completed in June and celebrated by the community in a July 2 dedication.

Left-turn lanes were built in all directions and a traffic signal installed at the intersection of U.S. 60 and Kodiak Road. Cost: \$1 million.

The signals will be especially helpful with before-school and after-school traffic generated by Neosho Middle School and Carver Elementary School, both located north of U.S. 60.

The project is the first in a series being planned along the corridor by the Neosho Transportation Development District in cooperation with MoDOT.

Several members of the TDD board, the Neosho business community and MoDOT representatives joined in the ribbon-cutting.



District Engineer Becky Baltz, center, helps cut a ribbon at Route 60 and Kodiak Road in Neosho. (Photo by Angela Eden)

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

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Scott County Route M Overpass Contract Awarded

Bridge Collapsed Following Train Collision on May 25



Work is underway to replace the Route M overpass.

On July 1, the Missouri Department of Transportation awarded a contract for an emergency bridge replacement on Route M in Scott County. The bridge collapsed following a train collision of Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroads on May 25.

The \$2,319,363 contract was awarded to Goodwin Brothers Construction Company.

Work to replace the structure is underway, with completion anticipated by Aug. 31. MoDOT will notify motorists of any changes in traffic.

For more information, please contact Resident Engineer Brian Holt at 573-344-2320 or MoDOT's Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636).

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MoDOT to Hold Briefing to Discuss Proposed Projects in Poplar Bluff

Route PP/Township Line/Route 67

The Southeast District will hold community briefing from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 23 to discuss intersection improvements at Route PP and Township Line Road. The meeting will also cover safety improvements to the Route 67 crossover at Township Line Road. The briefing will be held at the Poplar Bluff Chamber of Commerce office, located at 111 West Pine in Poplar Bluff.

"Visitors can stop-by anytime between 4 and 6 p.m. to discuss the details of the project with a member of the project team and provide their comments," said Area Engineer David Wyman.

The proposed intersection improvements at Route PP and Township Line Road would help traffic flow more smoothly. The proposed intersection improvements at Route 67 and Township Line Road would improve safety at this intersection.

MoDOT is currently examining two options for the Route PP/Township Line intersection project. The two alternates include constructing a roundabout at the intersection. Three options for the Route 67 crossover will also be shared at the public meeting.

For more information, please contact Wyman at (573) 840-9781, Transportation Project Designer David Blalock at (573) 472-5295, Transportation Project Designer Tim Pickett at (573) 472-6599 or MoDOT's Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (275-6636). An online meeting, including the meeting handout and an opportunity to comment, is available at: www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/public_meetings.



MoDOT is currently examining two options for the Route PP/Township Line intersection project. The two alternates include constructing a roundabout at the intersection. To view the options, please visit www.modot.org/southeast or click the image above.

Wendell Lockridge Retires from MoDOT



Wendell Lockridge, maintenance supervisor at the Hayti maintenance facility, retired July 1, bringing to a close his 35-year career with the department.

Lockridge began his career with the department as a crew worker in the Southeast District in July 1978. He was promoted to intermediate crew worker in June 1997 and to his current position in January 2001.

Lockridge and his wife, Linda, plan to remain in the Hayti area. He is looking forward to hunting, fishing and continuing his work in the community.

Thayer Resident Thanks MoDOT Maintenance

Please see the note below from Terri Wrenfrow, a Thayer resident:

This is just a thank you for mowing in front of our property. There was overgrowth and big bushes and trees that obscured our view to pull out into the highway. We appreciate all your hard work.

Second Phase of Route W Roundabout in Cape Girardeau to Begin



The second phase of the roundabout project in Cape Girardeau will begin the week of July 22, weather permitting. Traffic on Lexington will be shifted toward Route W as construction of the interior section of the roundabout is underway. This configuration will allow the contractor to work from the closed portion of Kingsway without impacting through traffic on Lexington.

For more info

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